

HAMATEUR CHATTER

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President's Letter

MRAC is a club. Amateur Radio is a hobby. Remembering those facts helps us keep things in perspective. MRAC is not just any club, however. We've been around longer than just about anybody, and in that time the club has done some special things, for the public and for the hobby locally and nationwide. I am very proud of that history, and I think it would be good for Amateur Radio if MRAC continues to make history because I believe we can do things that will make a difference. For the past several years we have had a struggle to fill the leadership positions in the club, and to get volunteers for activities. An opportunity comes up – we need a new newsletter editor (or editors). The Board asks for help, and the only response is the sound of crickets. So the Board takes it upon themselves. This keeps the Chatter going for now, but people who are already giving of their time now must give more. The energetic people who are willing to actually do stuff, the very people on whom the future of the club depends, get burned out. The Chatter is only the latest example. Most of the activities required a small commitment: an afternoon for Kids Day, for instance. Another example, licensing classes, would require 2-3 hours one evening, if just three or four would volunteer. We could be doing a lot more than we are, but it takes more than just the Board to do it. There is a funny thing about sharing an activity: increasing the number of people who help reduces the amount of work each must do, but it doesn't reduce the enjoyment each one gets--*it increases it.* 73 de AB9FH

August 28, 2008 General Membership Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:19 PM

The minutes of the previous meeting were inadvertently left at the secretary's home, so they were passed over this month. Mark AB9CD read the treasurer's report. Bob Fetterly N9HWB made a motion to accept the report as read; Joe N9UX seconded. The motion passed.

Howard AB9FH reminded the members that this is a Special Meeting, called because there was a need to revise the Bylaws to resolve the situation with the VEC. Board members checked the attendance sheet to verify that a quorum of members was present, as required in the Bylaws. Howard reported on a meeting between the Board and the VEC managing committee. He made the following motion, as directed by the Board during that meeting: "The MRAC Inc. resolves to establish the MRAC VEC Inc. as an independent VEC. MRAC Inc. will cooperate in all actions required to that end". Hal KB9OZN seconded. Following discussion, a vote was taken. 16 ayes, 3 nays, 1 abstained.

In light of the resolution, Howard stated that Article XII, VEC Program, should be removed from the Bylaws. Bob N9HWB made that motion. Larry NZ9I seconded. 15 ayes, 2 nays, 3 abstained.

Anyone interested in editing or helping in editing the newsletter, please contact the board. Howard also noted the board of directors has a vacancy (now 2!) open; anyone interested in filling the position should also contact the board.

Al KC9IJJ looked into possible dates for the Christmas party if we wish to hold it at Myers' Restaurant again; the club selected Saturday December 13th as the date.

Mark AB9CD reported, on behalf of the Repeater technical committee, that DSL service has been installed at the repeater site. M.A.A.R.S. will be paying almost all of the cost of the service, and will be sharing use of it. The cost to the club will be very small, and will make it easier to broadcast the RAIN report on the repeater.

Ted WA9RDI announced he will no longer be handling refreshments; he also resigned from the board. Anyone interested in either position, see the board.

Joe N9UX moved to adjourn, Bob N9HWB seconded. Motion passed, meeting adjourned 9:27 PM.

Overview of Board Meeting

We met at the Falls public library August 24th. A/V improvements for meetings are in the works: we are looking at ways to add a lapel mike to our current system, and to integrate the podium mike as well. We are purchasing a screen sized for our projector. DSL was installed today at the repeater site. We are reviewing the State Statutes about actions taken via e-mail.

Christmas Party – Saturday, December 13th

Reserve the date! We will be at Meyer's Supper Club. Menu will be forthcoming, and cost should be just about the same as last year.

Nets

Please, check in to our round table nets. Our 6 meter SSB net is at 8:00 pm on Thursday on 50.150MHz USB. Our 10 meter net is at 8:00 pm on Fridays at 28.490 MHz USB. If you do not hear the Net try tuning up or down 5KHz. Our 2 meter FM net follows at 9:00 PM on our repeater at 145.390MHz -600, PL 127.3.

Next Regular Meeting

The next meeting will be September 25th, 2008, at 7:00pm. We meet in the Fellowship Hall of Redemption Lutheran Church, 4057 N Mayfair Road. Use the south entrance.

VEC

Next session is September 27th at AES, 5170 W Good Hope Road.

Club Contact Information

Our website address: <http://www.w9rh.org>. Phone number is 414-332-MRAC (6722). Snail mail to MRAC, PO Box 070695, Milwaukee WI 53207-0695. Email may be sent to w9rh@arrl.net.